

is. In the meantime, insurance companies decided not to cover it. Even if they had an insurance policy that covered everything, they would cover mentally ill less. This bill says that will not happen anymore. Insurance companies would not be able to do that any more—the bill is called parity, which means fairness, which means equality. We are going to have fairness and equality of treatment by all insurance companies for the mentally ill.

Senator KENNEDY was as excited about that as I was. He is very sorry he couldn't be here when you helped me, Mr. Leader, get that through the other day. We called him and told him and sent him a letter saying we couldn't have done it without him.

That bill will cover 113 million people who will no longer have the threat of having less than full coverage for their mental illness, such as they do for other diseases.

That seems like it is pretty close to the end of my time, my 36 years. It will soon actually be, literally, 36 years, but for now, I will act as if it is and say this is my time to say thank you to the Senate. To all those who have worked with me and with whom I have been privileged to work.

What a magnificent opportunity I have had. Coming from Albuquerque, my father never went to school. He got here at 13. He claimed he was lucky. He didn't have to go to school because the law said if you are 13, you don't have to. He didn't know education was valuable, so he was glad to go to work. He didn't want me to go to law school because he was quite sure I had been overeducated. But when I explained it to him, he paid for everything. He said: I want you to be a lawyer, which was absolutely fantastic.

It has been an honor to serve my home state of New Mexico. With that, I just want to say thank you and good-bye.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PETE DOMENICI

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, let me take a few moments to say what an absolutely outstanding privilege it has

been for me, for 10 of the 12 years I have served in the Senate, to serve on the Energy Committee with Senator DOMENICI.

It is rare to see a person in public office who cares equally as deeply about his family and his children and his work. Sometimes families get pushed aside because of the work of men and women who think the work they do is somehow more important than raising their children. I have experienced struggling for that balance in my own life, watching my father struggle with that balance. Sitting on the committee watching Senator DOMENICI has been an inspiration to me, to watch him handle some of the biggest issues of our time, truly, over 36 years. He spoke about some of them—the budgets of the entire Congress, the nuclear renaissance in the country, major pieces of social legislation he has shepherded and nurtured and loved. But in between many of these discussions I have been privileged to have with him, he will stop in the middle of a conversation and talk about one of his children or one of his grandchildren. He is the father of eight. I am one of nine and the mother of two.

I just want to tell him, in these brief moments—and I am just going to speak for 2 or 3 minutes—what an inspiration he has been to me as a man who loves his wife and his children and his grandchildren so deeply and has managed to serve his State with such passion and grace and love for 36 years. And New Mexico is not a next-door kind of place. New Mexico is a long way from Washington, DC, but it has never been long from the Senator's heart.

The final thing I want to say is that, on behalf of the people of my State, I want the Senator from New Mexico to know we will be forever grateful for his leadership when it came to passing, for us, something in the nature of the Declaration of Independence. And I don't mean to belittle that document, but for the people of Louisiana, who for 60 years have struggled to try to find some way to preserve this great coast of ours and to save our communities, our culture, and our economic livelihood, this Senator stepped up, this Senator from New Mexico—not much water there—and his heart was with the people of Louisiana and the gulf coast. He and his wife flew over this great expanse of land, which has been under water now for quite some time with these storms in the last years, and he basically took the lead on establishing for us something that had eluded us for 60 years—since President Truman was the President of the United States. Senator DOMENICI changed the fortunes of Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and Alabama by putting in a major piece of legislation that will establish a way for us to secure this coast.

So, Senator, I could speak for a long time—many more hours—about what you have done, but there are other Members much more senior to me and

in your own party who wish to speak. I just wanted to lay down for the record the comment to you—and I will submit a more formal statement for the RECORD—that the people of Louisiana whom I represent will be forever grateful for your leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I am sorry to see PETE DOMENICI leave the Senate for a variety of reasons but one highly personal: He is reducing by 25 percent the number of Senators now serving who served with my father. Senator BYRD, Senator KENNEDY, Senator INOUE, Senator STEVENS, and Senator BIDEN all served with my father, as did Senator DOMENICI. Now, he has told me that my father was never quite able to pronounce his name correctly, for which I apologize. I have learned how to do it so that the Bennett family is relieved of that particular problem.

This demonstrates a degree of continuity and a degree of dedication to the problems related to the West because New Mexico and Utah are neighboring States. We touch at one tiny point. It is the only point in the United States where four States come together. It is called the Four Corners, where four States, in a straight divide, come and touch each other. But New Mexico and Utah share many of the same problems, and as I have come to the Senate with the problems of the West and had to turn somewhere for a mentor to help guide me through those problems, I have turned to Senator DOMENICI. His advice has always been good, his help has always been available, and he has proven to be as good a friend to his western neighbors as he has been to his New Mexican constituents.

If the Senate seniority rule holds in place, I will succeed him as the ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations. These are very big shoes to fill. In true DOMENICI style, instead of just waving goodbye and walking out the door, he has tucked me under his arm and taken me around to all of the national labs to make sure that these beloved institutions, which he has tended and funded and guided so carefully, got introduced to me under his tutelage and so that he made sure that I understood fully how important they were. In very kind and subtle ways, he made it clear to me that if I didn't stand up to the responsibility of keeping those national treasures alive, he would haunt me in one way or another. Now, I hope he does. I hope he is available for years to come for advice and counsel.

The other thing that has been referred to here, on which I have been delighted to join with him, is his crusade for insurance equality for the mentally disturbed. He and I both have some experience with that with members of our own families. We understand how